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THE REPRIEVE OF MRS. ROGERS.

Governor Bell, of Vermont, in relieving Mary Rogers, the woman sentenced to be hanged last Friday for the murder of her husband, said: "I grant a reprieve to Mrs. Mary M. Rogers until Friday, June 2, 1905. I do this expressly and only on the ground that she claims, through her attorney, that she has not had a fair trial, and that the evidence presented against her was false. I do not in any way pass upon the question as to whether such is the fact. I leave that question entirely with the court, to which she now has full recourse. I fix the date as June 2, since that will enable her to bring her case with all the new evidence she claims to have, before the Supreme Court at its May term, and the decision of that court upon her application must be final, so far as executive power is concerned. No consideration is given in granting this reprieve to the complaints made by outsiders that the laws of Vermont are cruel and barbarous. I believe that the laws of Vermont are just and impartial and express the will and wish of the people of the State and the judgment of the enlightened and law-abiding people of the Commonwealth."

While relieving the people of Vermont that she does not accept of the reprieve upon the ground that the evidence against her was false, the Governor shows that he has allowed the alleged new evidence to influence him. Right here an interesting point arises. It is claimed that the testimony upon which the woman was convicted came from an accomplice in the crime, who to save his own precious neck, turned State's evidence. It seems that his story was sufficiently corroborated to cause twelve good men and true to give it explicit belief. Otherwise the woman could not have been convicted in the first place. Now, this contemptible rascal, coached by deputy sheriffs, who would shirk the performance of their duty, is ready to swear that he swore falsely in the first trial. Is there any reason for placing more credence in his present oath than in the one on which the woman was convicted? Unless there were corroborative circumstances Mrs. Rogers' attorney should have been able to establish the necessary doubt in the minds of the jury. If the Governor believes that Perham is telling the truth now and was lying on the witness stand, he should go further than to give the woman a chance to carry the case to the Supreme Court.

So far as we understand the case there seems to be no claim that the woman did not have a hand in the murder of her husband. It seems that the best her lawyers anticipate is a verdict for murder in the second degree. If the Vermont theory of capital punishment is correct it seems to us that Governor Bell might properly have followed the example of Governor Montague, in which case it would have refused to exercise the judicial function necessary in order to pass upon evidence involving the degree of murder in the case he had under consideration.

AGAINST STANDARD OIL.

Rev. Father Diney, of New York, is in the ranks of those who "view with alarm." In a recent address he declared: "In this country there exists today a monopoly which threatens truth, justice, freedom of education, the pursuit of salvation and the very safety of our government. It has led in the struggle against legislation opposing monopolies. Its power in the

State and Federal government is generally recognized. It is the pre-eminent trust of the world. Well preserved in oil and gold, glossed over with a few universities and criminally approved by the silence that gives consent on the part of many ministers of various denominations, it constitutes the greatest danger to this republic of which I can conceive. I refer to the sanctified oil trust, which, under the leadership of a certain man, has grown until he can truthfully say, 'The oil business of the world is mine.' Any man standing between him and his gold, he holds either subject to purchase or deserving of ruin. Every competitor opposing his plans is attacked without fear or pity in order to drive him from the field."

This denunciation of the oil king is almost as vivid as that set forth in "Frenzied Finance." The Tarbell articles on the Standard Oil Company and its methods is beginning to arouse the fire of the American people and there are indications that a strong demand will be made for the application of the anti-trust law to the most corrupt and tyrannical of all the combinations.

VOTERS AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVES.

Attention recently has been called to the fact that only a few weeks ago the voters of a Massachusetts district elected to the Legislature a man who was serving a term in jail for fraud against the city in the matter of a city street examination.

The New Orleans Times-Democrat thinks that "there would, perhaps, have been a howl if this man had been admitted to the Legislature, and had taken a bribe to put through some measure that proved unpopular, and had he done so would he not have represented his constituents who knew the sort of man they were electing?"

It seldom happens that a man of that sort is elected to office without the knowledge and passive consent of numerous voters who would disdain to meet the candidate in a social way or who would trust him in a business deal. When the individual voter learns that he is personally responsible for the character and ability of his public representatives, there will be fewer scandals in the State legislatures and fewer United States senators and congressmen will be dodging indictments. A careless electorate encourages the operations of political grafters.

PRASE FROM YALE PROFESSOR.

Professor Smith, a member of the faculty of Yale University, recently made a tour of the South on business connected with the institution he represents. While in Dixie he has acquired himself with the educational standards of the section. The results of his observations are set forth in an interesting article in the Yale Alumni Weekly in which he says:

"There have been great changes there during the last quarter of a century. In the face of tremendous difficulties they have built up an excellent system of public instruction. This has been done for much sacrifice on the part of Southern people. But they were willing to make it. Deprived of nearly everything but moral courage by the Civil war, and with no system of public schools in existence, they created a good system in every State. They have triumphed over economic, industrial, social, racial difficulties, and have given both the whites and blacks equal educational advantages. I take my hat off literally and figuratively to such a people, and we all ought to be thankful for such a notable achievement."

These words of praise from the Yale professor are well deserved, and come in pleasing contrast to some of the egotistical self-sufficient criticisms hitherto advanced by those who have been taught to believe that ignorance reigns from the Potomac to the Rio Grande.

A little boy in New York has fatally shot another boy with his father's gun. A short time ago another child in the same family shot and killed himself accidentally. A motto that should be hanging in that home is "Every gun is a loaded gun all the time."

As a dernier resort, a relief party made up of the Norfolk reporters who recently rescued several persons from a wrecked schooner might be induced to show these oystermen marooned on Cold Dead Island the way to get home.

The war dispatch to the effect that General Kuropatkin had pierced the Japanese left wing appears to have been sent out before an interview could be obtained with Field Marshal Oyama and the situation explained.

"If I am given a choice between Pennsylvania politics and hell I'll take hell," says Judge Miller of that State who, according to his political opponents, is due to get both.

The Russian government has decided to prosecute Maxim Gorky. The trial will be concluded, it is presumed, in time to enable the guards in charge of the prisoner to catch the early train for Siberia.

Czar Nicholas has taken to entertaining workmen at the royal palace.

ace and is acting very much like a receptive candidate for office under an incoming new administration.

The mercury dropped to ten below zero in Connecticut last Friday, but it is believed that the wooden natmeg crop escaped serious damage.

While others view the situation with alarm the groundhog can point with pride to the fact that this weather was not of his making.

Cleveland Moffatt is lecturing on "The Shameful Misuse of Wealth," but no rich man's money is refused at the box-office window.

Mr. Bryan's statement that money deposited in the banks is not safe is likely to tempt burglars to drop in on him most any night.

CURRENT COMMENT.

The Jap as a Fighter.

There is no state in existence whose soldiers would encounter the victors of Port Arthur in equal numbers with any certainty of victory. Indeed, there have been incidents in the siege, like the storm of Nanshan or of 292 Meter Hill, which have compelled experienced soldiers to doubt whether the Japanese are not the finest soldiers in the world, and whether Kuropatkin is not right in demanding a grand superiority in numbers as the first, indeed the essential, condition for any victory by the troops under his command.—London Spectator.

Monotony of Being Good.

There is the boast that Virginia is dangerous soil for wife murderers. It should be dangerous for murderers of any sort. It should also guarantee fair elections. Indeed, there is hardly a State that a moral lecture could not be read to about something. It would be monotonous to be profoundly good. The incentive in human affairs is to be constantly getting higher. There must be a lot of lazy people at the top. Or perhaps the top is uninhabited.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Already Arranged by Japan.

England, Germany, Italy, and the United States are claiming to have formed a combination to prevent Russia from gobbling China. But the fact is that Japan has had the most effective combination of the sort in active operation for nearly a year.—Pittsburgh Dispatch.

Valuable Unclaimed Property.

The stories of lost and unclaimed property from a monumental history of human carelessness. Equally so, it would seem, is the story of unclaimed stolen property. In the Rue de Ecoles, in Paris, a yearly sale takes place of objects found on thieves and murderers, unclaimed by their owners. It is truly surprising that so many people refuse to claim what belongs to them. Among the things on view the other day were a pair of earrings, sold for \$15, a pear bracelet \$110, and one brooch \$210. There were dozens of diamond rings, splendid gold watches and chains, and one diamond weighing three and one-half carats.—New Orleans Picayune.

Good Time to Keep Quiet.

There are always a large number of people who prefer to attend primary elections, and who are generally the men who are the loudest in their objections to a certain candidate nominated after the election is over. The absurdity of a nonvoter objecting to successful candidates is apparent. Every man who has a right to vote at the primaries should do so, and if he doesn't the best thing for him to do is to keep quiet after the work is done.—Pittsburgh Gazette.

The Outlook.

The more notable among the articles in the February Magazine Number of The Outlook, in addition to its usual historical review of the week and editorial treatment of timely questions, are: "Who is Father Gapon?" by Madam Breshkovsky, the woman Russian revolutionist; "The Sailor of the Great Lakes," by W. D. Hulbert, with many pictures from photographs by the author; "An American Cathedral Close," by Ebert F. Baldwin; "A Story of the Sea Islands," by A. W. Dimock; "Three Impressions of Theodore Thomas," "Canoeing in Ottawa Waters," by Morgan A. Kent and Albert E. Kent; "Dokhann, the Noble," by A. V. W. Jackson; and "The American Country House," by Katharine C. Budd, an American woman architect. All these articles, with the exception of the first, are very fully illustrated with original photographs and drawings. The number also contains an amusing story, "Nixie of the Neighborhood," by Agnes M. Danton, and "The Church of the Strong Men," an essay of quite unusual character, by Gerald Stanley Lee.

Close Calculation.

Extremes touch in commercial eccentricities, and the hand of the palm is not so different from that of the pine in the oddities of its small traders. It was a Canada grocer who owned that it never paid him to keep white sugar. "If I get a barrel, folks buy it up so fast it's gone in less'n a week," said he. "Don't pay, I tell ye; it don't pay."

A traveler in the Philippines gives this experience on the island of Negros. He had gone to the open air market, where the native women sit squatting in a row, prepared for the long financial arguments that follow the customer's first mention of a price.

"How much?" asked the visitor, pointing to some mangoes.

"Three cents each," was the answer. There were six mangoes in the basket, and the traveler took them all and laid a twenty-cent piece in the seller's lap. But she angrily snatched them back and also returned the coin.

"They are 3 cents if you buy them separately," said she. "If you buy the lot, you will have to pay 5 cents, for I shall have none to sell to other people."

TO HELP FARMERS

Object of New German Commercial Treaties.

INCREASED AGRARIAN DUTIES

Necessary, Chancellor Von Buelow Explains, to Equalize the Agricultural and Industrial Development of the Empire.

Chancellor von Buelow, in submitting the commercial treaties to the German Reichstag, said he would not go into details, but would make some general observations. The unfavorable position of agriculture in Germany, compared with manufactures, was shown by the transfer of the population from the country to the cities. In 1871 61 per cent. of the population lived in places of less than 2,000. In 1895 the cities and country were equal, while today 54 per cent. lived in the cities.

Germany was not essentially an industrial state, but an agricultural and industrial state. While territories in Germany, especially in the northeast, south, southwest, and in Bavaria, relied on agriculture. The flourishing development of industry had limited and checked agriculture. Agriculture in Germany was sick. These treaties were designed to equalize the development and to assist agriculture. For this purpose, the chancellor said, higher duties on grain and animal industries are necessary.

Minimum Grain Duties.

Count von Buelow admitted that the scale of minimum duties for the four principal kinds of grain were put into the tariff law at his wish in order to show foreign states, when negotiating new treaties, that Germany could not accept lower grain duties than these. He also admitted that negotiations, especially with Russia and Austria-Hungary, were exceedingly difficult, since those countries had been injured by Germany's agrarian duties, and objected to the treaties in the interests of their farmers.

The duties as fixed, the chancellor continued, are equivalent to an increase of 42 per cent. on rye, 57 per cent. on wheat, 74 per cent. on oats, and 100 per cent. on barley. Referring to the increase in the duty on maize from 1 mark to 60 pfennigs per metric hundredweight to 3 marks, the chancellor said: "We need little maize, and the increase of duty will enlarge the demand for feed barley."

Tariff Not Prohibitive.

Count von Buelow confessed that Germany, in order to get the treaties renewed, had been compelled to accept considerable increases in industrial duties from Russia and other states. He warned the Reichstag against exaggerating the increase and calling them prohibitive. "Individual duties may have a prohibitive effect," he said, "but that is not true of the majority." He said the increases on iron goods, machinery and chemicals were heavy, but if Germany's commissioners had demanded more favorable terms, it would have been impossible to make any treaty whatever. He announced that Russia, in renewing the treaty with Germany, accepted the Brussels sugar convention, and also agreed to treat German Jewish commercial travelers the same as other Germans. Chancellor von Buelow announced that the treaties will go into effect on February 12, 1905.

Recent Bankers.

Among the most valuable evidences of the life and customs of the people of Babylon and Nineveh 700 years B. C. were found, during the excavations at various times, veritable letters of credit, bills of exchange, with and without warranty, money obligations of all kinds, sight drafts made payable to indorser or bearer. These denote the existence at Babylon, 600 B. C., of a bank which must have done a considerable business and shows that it is not only in our day that capital is used to give impetus and keep alive industrial pursuits.

Pardonable Ignorance.

A young American woman, an author, while seeing Rome for the first time was anxious to include a visit to the tomb of Caesar. Meeting a citizen on the street she inquired, in her best Italian, the location of the tomb. The man looked greatly embarrassed. "I am devastated, signorina," he apologized, speaking in excellent English. "I do not know. Caesar has been dead so long."

Sorry He Spoke.

Boarder (warmly)—Oh, I know every one of the tricks of your trade. Do you think I have lived in boarding houses twenty years for nothing? Landlady (frigally)—I shouldn't be at all surprised.

Accepting a Duel.

The challenge to a duel is commonly regarded as the last word after pacific methods have failed to right the wrong of the party aggrieved. As we all know, this is the hollowest pretense. Bismarck and Reichberg, the Austrian premier, decided to fight upon a certain morrow.

"Why not now?" said Bismarck. "We have our pistols here."

And they agreed to a duel there and then. But first Bismarck had to write a dispatch to his government giving the cause of the duel. This he asked Reichberg to forward in case he (Bismarck) fell.

Reichberg read the report, and his passion cooled.

"What you say is quite correct," he remarked, "but it is really worth fighting a duel for such a reason?"

"That is exactly my opinion," said Bismarck, and the matter ended on the spot.

THE WATER FINDERS

HOW THE DIVINING ROD RESPONDS TO THEIR PECULIAR POWER.

Mysterious Art of the "Dowsers" as Practiced by Gentlemen and Others in England—Remarkable Powers of One Famous Rod Handler.

Those who regard water finding by means of the divining rod as the practice of a foolish superstition will be shocked to hear that in recent times it has been employed by cabinet ministers such as the Marquis of Londonderry, by belted earls like Lord Strathmore, by grave judges and sheriffs, by railway companies such as the Midland, by urban district councils and by landowners without number, writes Fitz-gerald Molloy in T. P.'s London Weekly.

The art of finding water, minerals and even criminals by means of the divining rod has been known and practiced for centuries in every country in Europe. The rod itself, a symbol of magical power, is mentioned in the ancient mythologies, in the Christian Scriptures as the means by which Moses obtained water and is used in all ceremonial magic.

The water finder's rod is merely a forked twig, usually cut from a hazel, a whitehorn or an apple tree below the bifurcation, and is generally a foot long and about the thickness of a pencil. Its twigs are held at the extreme ends between the fingers and thumb of each hand by the water finder, or dowsers, as he is commonly called, who slowly walks over the land where it is desired to find a spring, until, on coming to the spot where water is, the twigs begin to move and its fork to bend downward.

It frequently happens that on reaching this site the rod, which has previously remained passive in the dowsers' hands, twists itself round with such violence as to break. The statement that water will be found beneath the depth is occasionally specified has seldom been falsified. The experiment has been tried of blindfolding the water finder and leading him by a different route to the spot he has already indicated, only to show that the rod repeated its movements on his regaining it. A second dowsers, kept in ignorance of the spot or of the land over which his predecessor has gone, will almost invariably name the same site as a place where water will be found.

Water finding is a special gift, requiring special physical and psychical qualifications, but is not limited to any class of society, to the educated or the ignorant, to age or youth, to men or women. Mr. J. D. Eys, F. G. S., became an excellent dowsers, while a woman of title in the midlands also became expert at finding water by this means.

But, though a special gift, experience has shown that it can be transmitted—that is, when the rod is held by a person who has not this power, but whose wrists are grasped by a dowsers, it will point to a spot where water may be found. No matter how diverse in rank or intellect or constitution water finders may be, they all seem to be less degree betray the same symptoms in the way they hold the rod. The electric shock seems communicated to them; they turn pale, tremble, or have convulsive movements similar to those that disturb the nervous system of a medium who obtains psychic manifestations.

Sir Lancelot Brunton, in writing of "Truthtells and Delusions" in the Universal Review says: "When we hear that a man is able to discover water at a considerable distance below the ground on which he stands we are at first apt to scout the idea as ridiculous, while if we were told that a caravan was crossing the desert and that all at once the thirty camels started off quickly and at a distance of a mile or more water was found we would look upon the occurrence as natural."

Regarding the divining rod as a subject for investigation, the council of the Society for Psychical Research earnestly requested Mr. W. F. Barrett, professor of experimental physics in the Royal College of Science for Ireland, to inquire into it. With "great reluctance and even repugnance," as he stated, he yielded to their wishes and began his examination, "hoping, however, in my ignorance that a few weeks' work would enable me to relegate it into the limbo large and broad, since called the paradise of fools."

A report of his long and patient research concerning the divining rod was contributed by Professor Barrett in a paper called "The So Called Divining Rod, or Virgula Divina." The outcome of his personal investigations, of reliable evidence and scientific knowledge, may be summed up in his own words: "The movement of the rod is not due to trickery nor any conscious voluntary effort, but is a more or less violent automatic action that occurs under certain conditions in certain individuals."

Having said so much, science still leaves us in ignorance regarding a human faculty which is the inheritance of some individuals and is undoubtedly the same power that, through a common piece of wood called the planchette, under the hands of certain persons writes coherent and sometimes important messages outside the range of their conscious intelligence and is the same force that has been found to rap out communications on tables.

It is interesting, but not surprising, to learn that the exercise of the dowsers' gift, which has been of immense service and which has been employed by those who frame and administer our laws, is illegal and therefore that those who receive money for its exercise are presumably as liable to fine and punishment as any gypsy fortune teller. That at least is what may be gathered from the decision of W. A. Casson, the local government auditor for Bedfordshire, who refused to allow the fee of a water finder employed by the urban district council of Ampthill.

The water finder employed was Leicester Caster, one of the most famous dowsers in England, whose powers have been made use of by many public men, by factory owners and parish councils. He is remarkable for being able at times to dispense with the rod, instead of which he uses his outstretched hands, which seem to receive a slight electric shock when he gains a spot where water or minerals may be found. He is also able to state correctly, as evidence shows, the depth at which water will be reached and the quantity per hour the springs will give.

The chairman stated that Mr. Caster named a number of springs in one field, and the total of water there was more than ample for the town. The auditor said that what he had to settle was whether the employment of a water finder was legal or not. In the only case bearing on the matter that had come before the courts the judges had held that "the pretense of power, whether moral, physical or supernatural, with intent to obtain money was sufficient to constitute an offense within the meaning of the law," and so Mr. Caster declined to exercise some such power his employment was clearly illegal, and the amount of his fee would be disallowed.

HATS CAUSE BALDNESS.

They Make the Scalp a Breeding Place for Microbes.

There is every reason to believe that primitive man had a thick and abundant head of hair and that this natural covering of the scalp is diminishing among civilized people and will end by disappearing altogether, which would certainly not be advantageous from an aesthetic point of view. The cause of this disappearance of the hair, according to the doctors, must be sought in the very conditions of civilization and in the customs it has introduced. One of the customs especially hurtful to the hair is the hat, and, above all, the masculine hat, so we see man's hair suffer more than woman's.

The hat produces baldness by two different methods. First, it creates about the head an atmosphere which is fatally warm and moist and which prevents the penetration of the rays of light that are so fatal to bacteria; the hat makes for the microbes a sort of improvised hotbed which is extremely favorable to their development, and it is known that microbes play an important role in the production of baldness. If it had been desired to foster the existence of microbes capable of living upon the scalp or in the hair a more favorable means for their protection and multiplication than the hat could not have been found. Again, the hat, holding its place upon the head solely by pressure, exerts a second pernicious influence upon the scalp: it compresses the arteries and the veins; it impedes the circulation of the blood and consequently the nutrition of the organs which produce the hair. It is therefore doubly desirable that the reign of the hat should cease in the case of men, for the women's hat is so light a thing that it can exert only a trifling proportion of the pressure it is responsible for in men, and that this argument should be renounced or replaced by some less hurtful article. As a matter of fact, hats would be very healthy with bare heads. The hair would be strengthened and would serve as a hat; it would only be necessary to protect the head against the rays of the sun in summer in order to avoid sunstroke. It is true the public imagines that it would catch cold more easily, but this is a mistake. A draft alone is not enough to give cold; a microbe is absolutely necessary. From the hygienic point of view there are fewer inconveniences in going with the head bare than in carrying about upon it a hotbed for microbes.—New York Herald.

Getting There.

Tankley—Let's see, we've had four rounds of drinks, haven't we? And Murkley's called for a Scotch highball each time.

Luschnian—Except the last time. He called for a "Hotch Skyball" then.—Philadelphia Press.

Lucky are actors who fare well on their farewell tours.

Souvenir Spoons.

We have just produced a new Spoon, showing an excellent likeness of the battleship "Virginia" engraved in the bowl.

By contracting for five hundred Spoons, we are able to sell the coffee size as cheap as

35 cents

others up to \$2 each

J. R. SPRAGUE

Manufacturing Jeweler